

Preventing Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome In The Workplace



Deer mouse

WHAT IS HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME (HPS)?

➤ **HPS** is a severe and sometimes fatal respiratory disease.

- **Sin Nombre virus (SNV)** is the cause of **HPS** in the western United States.
- In California, the primary carrier of SNV is the **deer mouse**.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET HPS?

People get HPS from infected deer mice, which shed SNV in their urine and droppings. Exposures can include:

- Breathing in the virus when dust or other small particles contaminated with mouse urine or droppings are stirred up into the air
- Touching eyes, nose, or mouth after touching an object or surface contaminated with rodent urine or droppings



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HOW CAN I PREVENT HPS?

Eliminate or minimize contact with rodents in your workplace.



Seal-up

- Seal holes and gaps around doors, windows, and pipes to keep rodents out



Trap-up

- Place and routinely check snap traps to remove existing rodents



Clean-up

- Reduce rodent food sources by storing food in tightly sealed containers
- Eliminate materials in which rodents may nest such as boxes, newspapers, and woodpiles
- Disinfect areas where dead mice, droppings, or nests are found

CLEAN-UP TIPS:

1. If possible, air out the work space prior to starting clean-up activities.
2. DO NOT sweep or vacuum in areas where mouse urine, droppings, or nests may be present.
3. Use only wet-cleaning methods, such as a mop or sponge, to minimize the chance of aerosolizing the virus.
4. Wear latex or rubber gloves during cleaning, and wash hands with soap and water when done.
5. Spray contaminated area with disinfectant or a mixture of bleach and water (1 part bleach to 10 parts of water) and let soak for at least 5 minutes.

For more information contact the Vector-Borne Disease Section (916) 552-9730, www.cdph.ca.gov or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm>

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